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Shoreham-by-Sea Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1950

BY

THOMAS HERBERT HARRISON

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

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SHOREHAM-BY-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
15, Mill Road,
Worthing.
July, 1951.

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the requirements of Circular 112/50 of the Ministry of Health, I herewith submit my first Annual Report on the health of the Shoreham-by-Sea Urban District. I am personally concerned only with the last quarter's work of 1950, the preceding three quarters' work having been carried out under Dr. Wilshaw.

Vital Statistics.

The population of the district comprises a large number of elderly people and consequently the Birth Rate is lower than for the rest of the country. Despite this large proportion of elderly people the Death Rate is lower than for England and Wales as a whole. When the age factor has been corrected the Adjusted Birth Rate is 12.8 and the Adjusted Death Rate is 10.1. The Infantile Death Rate was 43.2 but I am pleased to report that there were no maternal deaths.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Diphtheria Immunisation campaign continues. At present, about half the children under five years of age have been immunised and we must intensify our efforts to get this proportion increased.

Care of the Aged.

The care of the chronic and aged sick continues to be one of the major unsolved problems. General practitioners are finding it increasingly difficult to get the aged into hospital.

Clean Food Campaign.

Efforts have been made and are being made whenever opportunity occurs to instil the principles of food hygiene into the minds of everyone, especially those occupied in the preparation and distribution of food. This, I feel, is far better achieved by gaining the confidence and co-operation of local shopkeepers and catering establishments, and by constant education, rather than by taking statutory action.

Housing.

The housing of the people continues to be the major public health problem we have to face in Shoreham today. Far too many families are living in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions. Figures for overcrowding are given elsewhere in this report but it is stressed that the only legal standard we have for overcrowding is in the Housing Act 1936. This is an absolute minimum standard and according to this scale a family can be grossly overcrowded according to square and cubic feet per person, but when the legal standard is applied may show no overcrowding at all. For example, a grandmother and grandfather, mother and father, grown-up daughter, and children of say 9, 8, 6, 4, 3 years and twins of 9 months, could live in four rooms measuring 12ft. by 10ft. and yet not be legally overcrowded. I am pleased that the Housing Committee has now adopted a Points scheme which is based on the needs of the family rather than the legal standard.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS HERBERT HARRISON,
Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Shoreham-by-Sea Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor W. Batten (*Chairman of Council*).
,, J. W. Bayley.
,, F. S. Langmaid.
,, H. F. Owen.
,, K. Von der Heyde.
,, W. A. Watson.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:
Thomas Herbert Harrison, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Sanitary Inspector:
J. W. Thurman, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (*Food Cert.*)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:
P. M. Ennis, CERT.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Shoreham is situate on the South Coast, midway between Brighton and Worthing. The River Adur, flowing down from Bramber to the South, bounds the town on its west side, and then winding under the Norfolk Bridge flows eastwards, until it again turns southwards to enter the sea through Shoreham Harbour mouth at Kingston. In this way the river cuts off from Shoreham Town the shingle beach south of the Adur, known as Shoreham Beach. This shingle beach is within the Urban District of Shoreham-by-Sea.

The town possesses a public recreation area, Buckingham Park, comprising 38 acres. It is situate at the foot of the Downs north of the town, and is used as a public park and pleasure ground, available for general sports and recreation purposes.

The chief industries in the town are a Soap Works, Jam Factory, Yacht Building, Chemical Works, Timber Yards, Laundries.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 3,093.

Resident Population (1950) estimated by Registrar General, 12,780.

Population (1951) Census, 13,052.

Rateable value (1950), £122,499.

Sum represented by 1d. rate, £493..

No. of inhabited houses end of 1950 according to rate books, 3,696.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births — Legitimate, total 150 (74 males, 76 females); Illegitimate 12 (5 males, 7 females). Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 12.7.

Stillbirths, 4 (1 male, 3 females). Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 24.1.

Deaths, 140 (63 males, 77 females). Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.9.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth : None.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age : 7.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births, 43.2.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 46.7.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 31.

,, ,, Measles (all ages), None.

,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages), One.

,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years), None.

Comparative Statistics.

	England and Wales.	*West Sussex*		*Shoreham U.D.*
		Urban	*Rural.*	
Birth Rate	15.8	12.5	14.3	12.7
Death Rate	11.6	15.5	12.5	10.9
Infantile Death Rate ...	29.8	25	27	43.2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.08
Cancer Death Rate ...	1.9	2.6	2.2	2.4
Maternity Mortality Rate per 1,000 births ...	0.86	1.4	0.9	0.0
Scarlet Fever — Incidence Rate per 1,000 population	—	—	—	1.2
Diphtheria — Incidence Rate per 1,000 population	—	—	—	0.0
Enteric Fever—Incidence Rate per 1,000 population	—	—	—	0.0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Since the National Health Service Act came into force on July 5th, 1948, the following services are the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, which is the West Sussex County Council.

The Care of Mothers and Young Children.
Domiciliary Midwifery.
Health Visiting.
Home Nursing.
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.
Home Help.
Mental Health.
Ambulance and Hospital Car Service.
Vaccination against Smallpox.
Immunisation against Diphtheria.

I. Local Health Authority Services.

Nursing.

General District Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors and School Nurses are employed by the County Council to serve in the area.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The West Sussex County Council conduct a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at the Shoreham Health Centre, Middle Road, twice weekly. The West Sussex County Council also conduct an Ante-Natal Clinic at these premises fortnightly.

Day Nurseries.

There is no day nursery in the district.

School Clinics.

School Clinics are held twice weekly at the Health Centre, to which all school children can be sent. A Medical Officer attends weekly.

Eye Clinics, Dental Clinics, Physiotherapy Clinics and Speech Clinics are held at the new Health Centre, Middle Road.

Children suffering from enlarged tonsils and adenoids are treated at the Brighton Throat and Ear Hospital, under arrangements made by the West Sussex County Education Committee.

Orthopædic Clinics are held at the Lancing Health Centre.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held once a week at Southlands Hospital.

Venereal Diseases.

The West Sussex County Council have made arrangements entitling residents in the district to attend the Clinics for Venereal Diseases held at Worthing Hospital.

Ambulance Service.

Acting as agents for the County Council, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society operate the Ambulance and Hospital Car Service in the County. Calls for an ambulance are made through the doctor or nurse in attendance on the case, or through the Police.

Lists showing the names and addresses of midwives, health visitors and general nurses may be seen at County Libraries, Town Halls or Offices of Local District Councils, and the Public Health Department, County Hall, Chichester. Information as to the situation of clinics and times of sessions may be obtained from the same sources, or from the local midwife, health visitor or general nurse.

II. Hospital and Specialist Services.

A comprehensive hospital and specialist service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. Doctors can arrange whatever forms of treatment are needed for their patients in general or special hospitals, whether as in-patients or out-patients. Hospital accommodation of a private nature is available in certain circumstances subject to appropriate charges. All types of cases are thus provided for—medical, surgical, maternity, infectious diseases, and those requiring sanatorium or mental hospital treatment.

The Worthing Group Hospitals comprise Worthing, Southlands, Swandean, Littlehampton and Arundel Hospitals ; Zachary Merton Maternity Home, Rustington, and certain Convalescent Homes.

III. General Medical and Dental Services.

Everyone is entitled as part of the arrangements for the National Health Service to general medical and dental care. Local arrangements for these services are organised through the National Health Service Executive Council for West Sussex, 63, South Street, Chichester.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

(1) **Water.**

There is an abundant supply of pure water from the Brighton Corporation. The supply is constant and all the houses in the area are served direct. The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action. No samples were sent for bacteriological examination during the year.

Extensions of public water supplies during the year :—

Stoney Lane Housing Estate ...	12 yards 6″ main
	84 yards 3″ main
Kingston Lane Housing Estate ...	201 yards 4″ main

(2) **Public Scavenging.**

(*a*) *House Refuse.*

House refuse is removed weekly by the Council with direct labour. The refuse is disposed of by the controlled tipping method and is collected by mechanical freighters.

(*b*) *Sewers.*

There have been no important extensions of sewers during the year. It is proposed to lay 1,500 feet of sewer in Hammy Lane to serve the Council Housing Estate.

(*c*) *Cesspools.*

Cesspools and septic tanks situate in areas where sewers are not available are emptied by the Council with a mechanical cesspool emptier, and the sewage disposed of at the sewage works. A charge is made for this service in certain defined areas.

Rivers and Streams.

It has not been necessary to take any action to check the pollution of the river.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Factories Act, 1937.

1.—Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	55	156	7	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	23	36	4	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	2	—	—
Total ...	80	194	11	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	1	—
Sanitary Conven.—					
Insufficient ...	4	1	—	2	—
Unsuitable/defective	4	4	—	—	—
Not separ. for sexes	2	1	—	—	—
Other offences ...	3	3	1	1	—
Total ...	14	10	1	4	—

There are no Outworkers in the district.

Shops Act.

No. of shops in the district 258
No. of inspections 321
No. of defects found 2
No. of defects remedied 2

No applications were made under Section 10 (6) for exemption certificates.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

No. of inspections 109

A large number of caravans have occupied the Beach Green area during the early part of the year, in respect of which joint action has been taken with the County Council, and the area has been cleared of all moveable dwellings. No further trouble has been experienced in this area.

There are a few individual sites which have been used for camping purposes for short periods. These sites are excluded from the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. No contraventions of the Council's Bye-Laws have been observed on any of these sites.

Camping Sites.

No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1950 9
No. of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 3
Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1950 ... 150

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

1. No. of Council Houses—
   - (a) Found to be infested 0
   - (b) Disinfested 0
2. No. of other houses—
   - (a) Found to be infested 1
   - (b) Disinfested 1

Infested houses are gassed or treated with liquid insecticides, according to circumstances.

The houses and furniture of prospective tenants of Council houses are examined for the presence of vermin, and, if necessary, are treated as above.

Smoke Abatement.

No. of observations made	178
No. of notices served	2
No. of nuisances abated	2

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Sixty-five complaints have been received in respect of rats and mice and 1,944 visits have been made to 127 premises. The work of rodent destruction is carried out in accordance with the procedure recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and a part-time Rodent Operator is engaged on this work. An estimated number of 1,600 rats have been destroyed during these operations which have included thorough treatment of the Council's refuse tip. A test of 10% of the manholes on the Council's sewers was carried out early in the year, followed by a treatment of one section in which "takes" had been recorded, which resulted in an estimated kill of 15 rats. In October a further treatment of this section was undertaken when approximately 5 rats were killed. A free service is given to occupiers of private dwelling houses.

Schools.

No. of schools in the district	6
No. with public water supply	6
No. with water closets—	
(a) Separate pedestal	4
(b) Trough	2

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1950.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Name of Parish	*Total*	*Private Enterprise*	*With State Assistance under Housing Acts* *By the Local Authority*	*By other bodies or persons*
Shoreham-by-Sea ...	8	8	—	—
Kingston-by-Sea ...	64	4	60	—
	72	12	60	—

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 158

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 636

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 8

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 32

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation 61

2.—Remedies of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 73

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ... Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By Owners 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ... Nil

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ... Nil

E.—Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding—

(a) i. No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year 5

ii. No. of families dwelling therein 7

iii. No. of persons dwelling therein 37

(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 3

(c) i. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during during the year 4

ii. No. of persons concerned in such cases ... 32

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply, Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

No. of Dairymen (Cowkeepers and Milk Sellers, etc.) in the District 6
No. of these registered as Wholesalers only 2
No. of these registered as Retailers only... 4
No. of these registered both as Wholesalers and Retailers 0
No. registered to sell milk from premises in other districts 1
No. of Inspections of milkshops 20
No. of contraventions of the Regulations found ... 0

All cowsheds and milkshops in the District are supplied with water from the public main.

Licences.

Licences granted by the County Council :—

(1) To produce Tuberculin-Tested Milk	0
(2) To produce Accredited Milk	2

Licences granted by the Local Authority :—

To retail milk using the designation :—

(a) Tuberculin Tested	5
(b) Accredited	0
(c) Pasteurised	5

Legal Proceedings.

No. of summonses issued under the Regulations ...	0

Meat and other Foods.

No. of slaughterhouses	1
No. of inspections of slaughterhouses	2
No. of inspections of butchers' shops	36
No. of inspections of vehicles or carts	9
No. of inspections of other food stores	193
No. of contraventions found	2
No. of contraventions remedied	1

Ice Cream.

No. of premises registered for manufacture of ice cream	3
No. of premises registered for sale of ice cream ...	41

Bakehouses.

No. in the district	4
No. underground	0
No. of inspections	11
No. of contraventions found	1

Shell Fish.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

Condemned Foods.

A number of parcels of food were condemned as unfit and voluntarily surrendered.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Defects Remedied and Nuisances Abated.

Rooms renovated	2
Roofs repaired	27
Windows repaired	22
Walls and ceilings repaired	19
Damp walls treated	13
Doors repaired or renewed	3
Floors repaired	2
Firegrates repaired or renewed	7
Sinks repaired or renewed...	3
Spouting provided or repaired	15
Dustbins provided	6
Drains reconstructed	2
Drains cleansed	32
Drains repaired	8
Cesspools abolished	1
Pail closets converted to W.Cs.	1
W.Cs. provided	1
W.Cs. repaired	17
Overcrowding abated	4
Accumulations removed	32
Smoke and dust	2
Miscellaneous	16
	235

No. of inspections with regard to Infectious Disease... ...	109
No. of premises disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	25
No. of verminous premises disinfested	4
Total number of inspections for all purposes	4,132
Total number of notices served :	
Informal	87
Statutory	0
Total number of summonses issued	0
Total number of convictions obtained...	0
Complaints received	280
Complaints found justified and dealt with	267

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the notifications received during the year.

	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	15	2	0
Whooping Cough	50	1	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis	4	4	0
Measles	27	—	0
Chickenpox	56	1	0
Pneumonia	1	1	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	3*	3	0

* *These three cases were in-patients at Southlands Hospital.*

The above figures include notifications relating to Shoreham residents notified from Southlands Hospital, but do not include notifications received from Southlands Hospital in respect of persons admitted from other districts, or persons who are on the nursing staff, or who are permanent inmates of the institution or in the Children's Homes. In respect of these, the following notifications were received :—

Pneumonia 2, Puerpreal Pyrexia 20, Scarlet Fever 1, Meningococcal Infection 1, Ac. Poliomyelitis 2.

The ages of all the cases notified were as follows :—

	Under 1 year	1 — 2	3 — 4	5 — 9	10 — 14	13 — 24	25 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	4	10	1	1	—	16
Whooping Cough ...	4	8	15	22	—	—	1	50
Ac. Poliomyelitis :								
Paralytic ...	—	—	—	3	—	1	2	6
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	4	7	12	3	—	1	27
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chickenpox ...	1	6	10	30	6	2	1	56

	Under 5 years	5 — 14	15 — 44	45 — 64	65 and over	Total
Pneumonia	—	1	1	1	—	3
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	23	—	—	23
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—

Ac. Poliomyelitis (paralytic).

Four cases were notified during the year. Two of the patients were adults and two were children. All were admitted to Hospital for treatment. Three of the cases made a complete recovery and the fourth case was transferred to an orthopædic hospital for further treatment.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria Immunisation has again been carried out during the year by the County Council. At the end of the year the position was as follows :—

	Estimated population mid-year 1950	*Total number of children immunised*
Under 5 years of age ...	1,140	561
5-14 years of age ...	1,885	1,233

In addition, 117 children received a third reinforcing dose during the year.

No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year.

Food Poisoning.

No case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS—New Cases and Mortality, 1950.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	3	3	1	—	1	—	—

No person died from Tuberculosis who had not been notified in the district during life.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925.

It has not been necessary to serve any notice under these Regulations, which prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis taking part in the production of Milk.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. Section 172.

No action has had to be taken by the Council under this Section, which gives power to Sanitary Authorities to apply in special cases for a Magistrate's Order for the removal of Tuberculous persons to an institution for isolation.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47.

No action has been taken under the above Section during the year.